

Art Unit: 3700

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RL

1. A method of transmitting one or a plurality of textual messages to a destination via a communications link comprising a signalling channel and one or more data channel(s), said signalling channel being operable to establish and control connections between a source and a destination apparatus via said communications link so that data can be transferred between a source and destination via one or more of the data channel(s), said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) firstly establishing the number of messages to be transmitted and
 - 10 transmitting data representing said number;
 - b) secondly identifying the sender of each message and transmitting data representing each said sender;
 - c) thirdly transmitting data representing the text of each message.
- 15 2. A method according to claim 1 in which the data is transmitted to the destination using messages sent via the signalling channel.
3. (Amended) A method according to [any preceding claim] claim 1 the activity of the signalling channel is monitored and the data sent to the destination only if the signalling channel activity is within a predetermined range.
4. (Amended) A method according to [any preceding claim] claim 1 in which the data is only sent within a predetermined time interval.
5. (Amended) A method according to [any preceding] claim 1 in which an estimate the time for transmitting data to a destination via the signalling channel is made and, if the time exceeds a predetermined threshold, the data is transmitted to the destination using one or more of the data channels.

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